



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEBB CITY MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Webb City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Rusty Eugene McCoy, 24, of Webb City, was sentenced by U.S. District Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to 15 years in federal prison without parole. Because he has three previous convictions for violent felonies, Graves said, **McCoy** was sentenced as an armed career criminal.

On June 14, 2005, **McCoy** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. **McCoy** admitted that he was in possession of a S&W .38-caliber revolver in April or May 2004. **McCoy** purchased the firearm for \$350 from a private seller after he noticed the firearm for sale in an advertisement in *The Joplin Globe*, Graves said, and later sold it for \$600 to another person. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. Anyone with three prior violent felony convictions may be considered an armed career criminal and subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole.

McCoy has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for aiding and abetting a theft in Montgomery County, Kan., a 1999 criminal felony conviction for theft in Crawford County, Mo., and two 2000 criminal felony convictions for burglary in Labette County, Kan.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael O. Hendrickson and James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Carterville, Mo., Police Department, the Jasper County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html